

October 3, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.

Dear Chairman Pai:

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's Public Notice regarding nominations to the board of the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC"),¹ Public Knowledge is pleased to support the nomination of Olivia Wein to the USAC Board of Directors for a third term as the representative for information service providers.²

Ms. Wein is the Lead Telecom Project Attorney for the National Consumer Law Center and has been working on Universal Services issues since her time as an Economic Justice Fellow at Consumers Union in the late 90s. She has extensive knowledge of the Lifeline program and the challenges faced by low-income households in accessing essential communications services. She has a deep commitment to bridging the broadband divide for vulnerable low-income populations, including homeless veterans, victims of domestic violence, families with school-aged children, older Americans and those recovering from natural disasters.

Ms. Wein is a recognized expert on the Lifeline program and the impact of telecommunications programs and policies on low-income consumers. The Lifeline program is in the midst of a major transformation in the way the program is administered, particularly with the planned transition to low-income consumer eligibility determinations using the National Verifier. This new process will enhance consumer choice and control over their Lifeline benefit, but only if the eligibility determination process works well for consumers. The roll-out of the consumer-facing National Verifier process will require careful oversight and monitoring from a Board that understands low-income consumer needs as well as the needs of front-line community-based organizations who help low-income consumers learn about the Lifeline program. Ms. Wein is well-suited to stay on top of USAC's administration of the Lifeline program rules. Ms. Wein's expertise and standing in the low-income consumer advocacy community will provide USAC with low-income program implementation expertise, including effective outreach and engagement with Lifeline-eligible consumers, their local community assistance agencies.

¹ Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Nominations for Six Board Member Positions on the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, *Public Notice*, DA 18-921 (rel. Sept. 6, 2018).

² 47 C.F.R. §54.703(c).

We strongly endorse Ms. Wein's nomination to serve a third term on the USAC Board of Directors as set forth above.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gene Kimmelman

Gene Kimmelman
President and CEO
PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

cc: Matthew Berry, Chief of Staff, Office of Chairman Ajit Pai
Kris Monteith, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau
Christian Hoefly, Office of the Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau
Charles Tyler, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau